

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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EDITOR

California Cares for Crippled Children

By GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director, California State Department of Public Health

For three years, the California State Board of Public Health has been working in the interest of crippled children whose parents or guardians are unable to provide necessary treatment for the relief of their physical handicaps.

The law under which the Department works was enacted in 1927, but did not become operative until October of 1928. Under this law, parents or guardians of physically handicapped children under 18 years of age may petition the superior court of the county wherein they are residents for a certificate setting forth the facts in the matter, and if the judge is satisfied that the parents or guardians are unable to furnish treatment and appliances, either in whole or in part, he shall issue a certificate to that effect.

Having obtained this certificate, the parents or guardians present it to the State Board of Public Health, whose duty it is to furnish the necessary treatment and services, materials and appliances, their upkeep and transportation—the expense incidental to the provision of which are advanced from a revolving fund appropriated for the purpose. The State, however, does not bear the expense of treatment, for all money expended under the authority of the certificate constitutes a legal charge against the county wherein the certificate is issued.

Handicapped individuals who may come under the provisions of the act, may be treated in hospitals or institutions with which the State Board of Health may contract or by individuals, agencies, or organizations approved by and designated by the Department.

The law also makes it the duty of the Department to arrange through local agencies for public diagnostic clinics or conferences for physically defective and handicapped persons, whenever and wherever it may appear necessary, in order to bring expert diagnoses to such persons at localities which are near their own homes.

Community interest in the treatment of crippled children in California has developed remarkably during recent years. This is due largely to the support of men's service clubs and women's organizations, and also to the activities of the California Society for Crippled Children. This organization was largely instrumental in securing legislation for carrying on the work.

During the three years that the law has been operative in California, 266 crippled children have received treatment under the provisions of this act, and the surveys conducted by the Department have located no less than 3345 crippled children within the State. Since work under this act was inaugurated more than 2000 home visits or investigations of cases have been made in 51 of the 58 counties of the State. Repeated visits to the hospitals for crippled children and convalescent homes together with many special surveys, particularly of paralyzed children whose paralysis resulted from epidemic poliomyelitis, have been made.

Widespread epidemics of poliomyelitis occurred in California in 1927 and 1930, with a considerable number of cases reported in 1928. In 1927, 1270 cases of this disease were reported from 55 counties. Of these, there were residual paralyses in 316 cases, all of which

were in patients living in small towns in rural districts of the State. In 1928, 154 cases out of a total of 301 which were reported showed residual paralyses. All of these patients were located in rural districts of the State. As a matter of fact, cases in the large cities where orthopedic hospitals and well organized health departments function, were not covered in the surveys made by the State.

In 1930, out of a total of 1905 cases reported residual paralyses was found in 709 patients.

These figures indicate the importance of the Crippled Children's Act in the rehabilitation of children who suffer paralysis following epidemic poliomyelitis. Under the provisions of the act a total of 266 children have been provided with treatment. Through the results of the treatments, nearly all of these children have been rehabilitated, thereby relieving the State and the local community from possible expenses which might result from indigence brought about through unrelieved physical handicaps.

It is conceded, universally, that the relatively small amount of money expended by the county in the provision of medical and surgical relief is a mere pittance compared to the large sums of money that would be required for the care of cripples who might later become burdens upon the county because of their uncorrected physical handicaps.

While it is true that most of the work that has been undertaken by the California State Board of Public Health in the enforcement of this act has had to do with paralysis following epidemic poliomyelitis, other types of paralysis and physical defects have been cared for.

Among these are: birth injuries, congenital defects—such as club feet, hip disease, harelip and cleft palate. Tuberculosis of the spine and of the hip have also been brought under treatment. Poor posture, flat feet, and other faulty foot conditions have come within the provisions of the act. Traffic and work injuries have also come under treatment. Nearly all of the individuals who received treatment are native whites. A few colored, Indians, Mexicans, Chinese and Japanese have received treatments, but 80 per cent of those who have been relieved are native American whites.

The results of the enforcement of this act have been most satisfactory to all concerned. At the beginning, there was considerable opposition in several different counties but this has completely disappeared. The various counties of the State have become convinced of the economy effected through the operation of the act, and are well satisfied with its provisions.

In some counties the effect has been to improve conditions in the county hospitals, resulting in the expenditure of large sums of money for the provision of

proper surgical equipment and appliances. This has encouraged the provision of the best surgical service that might be obtained, and has resulted in better provisions for the treatment of crippled children in their own localities.

It is safe to state that Californians are well satisfied with the results that are obtained through the enforcement of this act. It has been the means of saving large potential expenditures on the part of the counties, but more important is the result in the restoration to health and physical activity of hundreds of children who might otherwise have gone through life suffering from handicaps which might make them burdens to themselves and to their families.

STATE EGG LAW IS ENFORCED

Special efforts were taken during the past month to secure enforcement of one of the new egg laws of 1931 (Chapter 434). This law makes no definition of "fresh eggs." Under the provisions of this act cold storage eggs may now be advertised as "fresh eggs" and no action may be taken, officially, to prevent such advertising. In order to be labeled "fresh eggs," they must show only one-fourth inch air space, conforming to the grade of "Large Extras," as defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In spite of the difficulties encountered, good results were obtained in the enforcement of this law in a campaign which was carried on in the southern part of the State. A total of 319 establishments were visited in the counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino. In 237 of these places properly labeled eggs were found. Technical violations totaled 67. These were of such a nature that they did not warrant prosecution, for the reason that the individuals involved had never been instructed with regard to the proper labeling of eggs. Fifteen prosecutions were carried out, twelve of which terminated successfully, with three prosecutions still pending. Fines, varying in amount from ten to fifty dollars, were imposed by the courts. Five inspectors participated in this campaign. Similar action is now under way in the northern end of the State.

A new sewage treatment works for Folsom prison is nearing completion. This was also constructed from plans prepared by the State Architect's office, in cooperation with the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering. The first full-scale activated sludge plant in the State was installed at Folsom prison. This has now become too small, and the new plant incorporates the most advanced ideas in activated sludge plant design.

FOOD POISONING CASES REPORTED

One hundred and eighty-one cases of food poisoning were reported during the past month. One hundred and seventy-five of these occurred following a high school banquet held in Willows. About two hundred mothers and daughters attended the banquet, and those who were affected had eaten creamed chicken, which had been prepared earlier in the day and had been heated just before serving. None of the chicken was available for laboratory examination. About sixty pupils in the domestic science class had handled the chicken in the preparation of the dish.

It is probable that arsenic caused the cases of food poisoning in the remaining six cases in Santa Monica. Fresh mustard greens had been eaten and samples examined at the laboratory revealed the presence of a considerable amount of arsenic, which had probably been used in a spray for the destruction of insects.

SANITARY WORKS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS

Preston School of Industry has just completed a very fine water purification plant, constructed from plans prepared by the State Architect's office, in cooperation with the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering. For the first time in many years this institution now has a really good water supply. The plant consists of aerators, means for adding filter alum, mixing and settling tanks, filters and clear water storage, as well as chlorination.

OYSTER SANITATION

Surveys of oyster growing grounds in San Francisco Bay, Eureka Slough and Arcata Bay were carried on during the month of October. Sixty lots of oysters were examined and seventy-four tests were run on these samples. Twenty-one lots of clams were collected and twelve samples of waters over the growing-beds were taken. Certificates were issued to six growers who have complied with the regulations. Since the oyster industry is expanding in California, close attention is being paid to the cleanliness and safety of oyster beds.

COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSE SURVEY

A survey of cold storage warehouses revealed many instances of articles which have been held in storage beyond the legal time limit. In some cases permits for an extension of time were issued and in others articles were condemned because of their unfitness for human consumption. Most of the articles condemned and destroyed consisted of fish and fish products.

BEWARE OF CYANIDE POISONING

Cyanide gas is one of the most deadly of all poisons. It is used effectively in the destruction of vermin. The very greatest of care is necessary in the employment of this agent. In Los Angeles, recently, a fumigating company used cyanide gas for destroying vermin in a room of an apartment house. The gas leaked through an opening around a water-pipe into the room above, according to reports. Two boys, who were in the upper room, met almost instant death through the inhalation of the poisonous gas. This fumigation was done unofficially and no reflection can be cast upon any health officers. Whenever it is necessary to use cyanide gas the utmost precautions should be taken. The general public should be warned of the dangers that are associated with this method of fumigation, and all possible sources of risk should be eliminated.

EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATE

Four hundred and eighty-six applications for the examination for certificate as registered nurse were received during the month of October. Of these applications, 218 were for the examination held in San Francisco, 220 for that held in Los Angeles, and 48 for the examination held in Sacramento.

Applications for certificates for 1185 students admitted to schools of nursing in the fall classes were handled during the month of October. While all of the certificates have not been issued, a large volume of work has been accomplished in their evaluation.

SANITARY ENGINEERING SURVEYS

During October sanitary engineering surveys of sewage disposal only were made in the following cities: Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont.

JAM AND JELLY SURVEY

Work has been continued in surveying the jam and jelly industry. Thirteen manufacturers of jams and jellies attended a meeting held in Los Angeles October. The discussion related, particularly, to the matter of labeling. Opposition to the removal of pictures of perfect fruits in gorgeous colors from the labels of imitation products is dwindling and it is anticipated that all manufacturers will comply with the requirements within a short period of time.

A person who aids in the spread of disease is a criminal and his acts do not have to be intentional or malicious for him to be treated as such.—Pittsburg's Health.

MORBIDITY***Diphtheria.**

91 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Fresno County 12, Eureka 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 12, Alhambra 2, Azusa 1, Beverly Hills 2, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 33, Torrance 1, South Gate 2, Maywood 1, Gardena 1, Merced County 2, Orange County 1, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, Placentia 1, Riverside County 4, Riverside 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Palo Alto 1, Marysville 1.

Scarlet Fever.

122 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 2, Pittsburg 1, Crescent City 1, Fresno County 6, Fresno 1, Orland 2, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 16, Alhambra 3, Beverly Hills 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 35, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 2, South Gate 4, Bell 1, Merced County 4, Orange County 4, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 3, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 4, San Mateo County 1, Watsonville 1, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 1, Visalia 2, Santa Paula 1.

Measles.

116 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Berkeley 2, Oakland 1, Gridley 1, Contra Costa County 1, Arcata 1, Eureka 43, Los Angeles County 1, Burbank 1, Los Angeles 3, South Gate 1, Monterey County 1, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 18, Placer County 1, Sacramento 31, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 4, San Jose 1, Woodland 1.

Smallpox.

14 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 2, Coalinga 3, Kern County 2, Lassen County 5, San Francisco 2.

Typhoid Fever.

10 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Kern County 2, Los Angeles 1, Merced County 4, Riverside 1, San Bernardino 1, Fillmore 1.

Whooping Cough.

73 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 2, Oakland 3, Azusa 5, Los Angeles 9, Pasadena 3, Orange County 3, Plumas County 4, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 5, Santa Barbara County 8, San Jose 1, Trinity County 2, Ventura County 5, Fillmore 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Susanville 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1, Dunsmuir 1.

Poliomyelitis.

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Bakersfield 1, Inglewood 1.

Anthrax.

One case of anthrax from Merced County was reported.

Trichinosis.

One case of trichinosis from Sonoma County was reported.

Food Poisoning.

5 cases of food poisoning from Los Angeles were reported.

Undulant Fever.

One case of undulant fever from Los Angeles was reported.

Septic Sore Throat.

One case of septic sore throat from Monterey County was reported.

* From reports received on November 30 and December 1 for week ending November 28.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1931				1930			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Nov. 28 received by Dec. 1	Week ending			Reports for week ending Nov. 29 received by Dec. 2
	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21		Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Botulism.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	222	285	279	229	188	188	285	228
Coccidioidal Granuloma.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria.....	107	133	112	91	86	81	68	66
Dysentery (Amoebic).....	4	0	1	3	1	0	0	1
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	3	6	3	8	2	1	3	6
Encephalitis (Epidemic).....	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Erysipelas.....	12	15	13	15	11	12	12	13
Food Poisoning.....	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
German Measles.....	7	6	15	5	11	6	10	9
Gonococcus Infection.....	159	201	149	143	157	135	160	152
Influenza.....	41	44	73	42	29	27	31	43
Leprosy.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Malaria.....	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	0
Measles.....	169	105	181	116	114	103	117	188
Meningitis (Epidemic).....	2	5	4	5	4	3	5	4
Mumps.....	106	97	110	93	143	151	186	121
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever.....	3	2	6	1	1	1	1	0
Pellagra.....	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	3
Pneumonia (Lobar).....	38	39	48	49	47	58	56	63
Poliomyelitis.....	3	5	5	2	46	44	27	27
Rabies (Animal).....	10	11	9	6	15	12	13	24
Scarlet Fever.....	139	160	147	122	108	100	98	96
Septic Sore Throat.....	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Smallpox.....	8	3	3	14	14	25	17	18
Syphilis.....	174	166	159	165	179	153	156	209
Tetanus.....	1	0	6	0	1	3	3	1
Trachoma.....	5	8	3	2	4	107	7	4
Trichinosis.....	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Tuberculosis.....	164	186	173	158	212	177	184	133
Typhoid Fever.....	6	12	14	10	21	15	12	8
Undulant Fever.....	1	3	2	1	2	5	4	1
Whooping Cough.....	88	63	127	73	120	103	97	100
Totals.....	1,482	1,562	1,648	1,362	1,521	1,515	1,556	1,519

Slight reductions are noted in the prevalence of most of the reportable diseases.

Influenza shows no signs of becoming epidemic.

Smallpox shows a slight increase.

Trichinosis was reported last week.